

Message Text

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44

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-02 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00

OMB-01 OIC-02 AF-06 NEA-09 /130 W

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R 011431Z APR 75

FM US MISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1750

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USEC BRUSSELS

US OECD PARIS

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DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, GATT

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP

REF: STATE 055676

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1. SUMMARY. THE INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP MET FOR THE FIRST TIME ON MARCH 14 AND 15. IT DECIDED TO INVITE OTHER INTERESTED (GATT AND NON-GATT) COUNTRIES TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS WORK. IT AGREED TO INVITE AS OBSERVERS INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SUCH AS FAO, OECD, AND ECE. THERE WAS A CONSENSUS THAT THE MAJOR WORK OF THE GROUP SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON BEEF AND CATTLE. THE MAIN TASK OF THE GROUP SHOULD CONSIST OF AN EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION AND CONSULTATIONS ON ALL STATISTICAL AND POLICY ASPECTS OF THE PRODUCTION AND TRADE WITH BEEF AND CATTLE. THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP IS TO BE HELD BY THE MIDDLE OF JUNE. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GATT INTERNATIONAL MEAT CONSULTATIVE GROUP HELD ITS FIRST MEETING ON MARCH 13 AND 14. IN ADDITION TO THE U.S. AND AUSTRALIA (WHICH ORIGINALLY SPONSORED THIS GROUP), THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES PARTICIPATED IN THIS FIRST MEETING: ARGENTINA, AUSTRIA, BRAZIL, BULGARIA, CANADA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC, EEC, FINLAND, HUNGARY, JAPAN, NEW ZEALAND, POLAND, RUMANIA, SOUTH AFRICA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND, AND URUGUAY.

3. THE FIRST MEETING WAS DEVOTED TO ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS. THE GROUP REQUESTED THE SECRETARIAT TO CIRCULATE A NOTE INVITING OTHER COUNTRIES (INCLUDING NON-GATT MEMBERS) TO PARTICIPATE IN ITS WORK. MOREOVER, THE SECRETARIATS OF THE OECD AND OF ECE WERE INVITED TO ATTEND FUTURE MEETINGS OF THE GROUP AS OBSERVERS. A REPRESENTATIVE OF FAO ATTENDED THE FIRST MEETING AS OBSERVER AND WILL ATTEND THE MEETINGS OF THIS GROUP ALSO IN THE FUTURE.

4. THE QUESTION OF THE PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS INTERESTED IN THE INTERNATIONAL MEAT TRADE WAS HELD OPEN PENDING A DECISION BY THE GROUP AT ITS NEXT MEETING.

5. THE GROUP AGREED THAT INITIALLY IT WOULD CONCENTRATE ON BEEF AND CATTLE IN ALL STAGES OF PRODUCTION, PROCESSING AND TRADE. THIS WOULD BE WITHOUT PREJUDICE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO THE POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION BY THE GROUP OF OTHER TYPES OF MEAT, PARTICULARLY IN CONNECTION WITH THE EXAMINATION OF TRENDS OF MEAT CONSUMPTION.

6. THE GROUP IS TO BE A FORUM FOR CONSULTATIONS ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE IN LIVESTOCK AND MEAT. FOR THIS PURPOSE IT WOULD PROVIDE FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON PRODUCTION AND TRADE, AS WELL AS

INFORMATION ON NATIONAL POLICY MEASURES AFFECTING THE BEEF SECTOR. THE ANALYSIS OF CURRENT AND FORESEEABLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE BEEF AND CATTLE SECTOR IS INTENDED TO CREATE AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ENABLING NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE OVERALL SITUATION. HOWEVER, THE GROUP SHOULD NOT BE A PLACE FOR CRITICISM OF, OR NEGOTIATIONS ON, NATIONAL POLICIES. IN ITS ACTIVITIES THE GROUP WILL AVOID DUPLICATING THE WORK OF OTHER INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE FAO OR THE OECD.

7. U.S. PROPOSALS CONCERNING THE TASKS OF THE GROUP (AS PER REFTEL) WERE GENERALLY WELL RECEIVED. HOWEVER, THERE WAS A CERTAIN RELUCTANCE, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF THE EEC, TO FOLLOW THE U.S. SUGGESTION FOR A JOINT REVIEW OF MEDIUM-TERM PROJECTIONS (PARA 1(A) (3) OF REFTEL).

8. IN ORDER TO FIND A FORMAT FOR THE DATA ON WHICH THE GROUP'S WORK WILL BE BASED, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE GATT SECRETARIAT SHOULD PREPARE A MODEL QUESTIONNAIRE. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE PARTICIPANTS FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GROUP.

10. THE GROUP AGREED THAT IT WOULD MEET ON A REGULAR BASIS. HOWEVER, THE FREQUENCY OF ITS MEETINGS WILL BE DECIDED AT THE NEXT MEETING WHICH IS LIKELY TO TAKE PLACE IN JUNE 1975.DALE

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